

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

June 25, 2013

Refugee Awareness Month

Due to political, religious, or other social issues that have the potential to result in bodily harm, deprivation, and discrimination, people across the world are forced to flee their countries to find freedom, economic security and protection from violence and persecution. The decision to leave is never made lightly and often involves risks unheard of in societies such as ours.

Refugees and their families settle in Los Angeles County with the objective of starting new lives free of persecution, torture, and imprisonment. Los Angeles County's Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the local Resettlement Agencies play an integral part in assisting the refugee in this life-changing undertaking.

Culturally and linguistically sensitive resettlement assistance, employment and specialized services for refugees and their families are provided by the Department of Public Health, DPSS and local refugee agencies including:

- Catholic Charities of Los Angeles;
- Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service;
- International Institute of Los Angeles;
- International Rescue Committee;
- Jewish Family Services;
- World Relief;
- Armenian Relief Society;
- Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles;
- Jewish Vocational Services; and
- Community Enhancement Services.

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Based on information from the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Program Bureau, over the last five years there have been 12,288 refugee arrivals in Los Angeles County. As residents of Los Angeles County, through their talents, faiths, and shared common values, refugees enrich our society and add the diversity which strengthens the fabric of life in Los Angeles County.

For the past decades, refugees seeking freedom, safety and liberty, have chosen to resettle in Los Angeles County. Just as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have annually proclaimed June 20th as “World Refugee Day”, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County recognizes the numerous contributions refugees have made to enhance the culture of Los Angeles County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles proclaim the month of June 2013 as “Refugee Awareness Month” throughout the County of Los Angeles to increase the awareness of the strength and contributions of refugees to our County.

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